APPENDIX II

(*See* section 227)

Rules regarding reports required by the Government of India on agricultural conditions and prospects when Scarcity or Famine is apprehended or prevalent

Preliminary Reports

1. Whenever, owing to a deficiency or failure of the rainfall, agricultural prospects become serious and apprehensions of distress arise, the Government of India should be furnished with a special report on the state of affairs. The report should review the economic condition of the district or group of districts affected; the outturn of recent harvests, the nature and the extent of the anticipated failure of crops; the probable intensity and duration of distress and the contingencies on which they depend; the classes most affected; the position as regards local trade, communications, food-stocks, prices, fodder and water-supply, &c.; the precautionary steps taken to organize measures for dealing with distress; the state of the relief programmes; and relief expenditure. A similar preliminary report should be supplied for any new districts or groups of districts which may become affected subsequent to the submission of the first preliminary report.

2. The preliminary report should be furnished as soon as it is possible for the Local Government to form a general estimate of the position, and should not be delayed for detailed or exact statistical information. If the statistical data are not complete, a fuller report should be furnished in continuation of the preliminary report as soon as the materials are available. Any marked change in the situation for better or worse should be immediately reported by telegram.

Weekly Telegrams and Returns

3. The first indications of crop failure and distress amongst the population, whether due to drought or other natural calamity, should be communicated in the weekly telegraphic "season and crop" reports. Until regular scarcity or famine relief measures have actually been started these reports should also notice the measures taken to ascertain the existence of distress and the preliminary measures adopted to relieve it, *e.g.*, the districts in which scarcity works have been opened, and the number of persons resorting to them, the number of persons (if any) receiving gratuitous relief, &c.

4. But when once the existence of scarcity or famine has been recognized by the starting of relief measures under the Famine Code, a separate scarcity or famine telegram should be despatched weekly to the Government of India on the same day as the season and crop telegram, which should then be confined to a description of the progress of the season, the condition of the crops and the state of stocks and prices in the non-affected areas. The special telegram should give the following statistical information regarding Government famine relief:—

(i) Number of workers on (*a*) scarcity works and (*b*) famine relief works of all kinds (exclusive of dependents).

(ii) Number of persons in receipt of Government gratuitous relief or special relief of all kinds (including the dependents of workers relieved on works and weavers and artisans relieved in their own trade).

(iii) Total number of persons relieved.

The figures should be the number on the last day of the week under report or the daily average for the week, and in telegraphing the figures the following abbreviations may be used: "Works...Gratuitous...Total."

5. The figures are not required for each district but for the Province as a whole. If scarcity or famine measures are in progress in any Indian States under the political control of the Provincial Government, separate relief statistics under the prescribed headings should also be supplied, as far as possible, for such States collectively.

6. The inclusion of a district or State for the first time in the affected area, whether of a province or group, and similarly, the removal of a district or State, as no longer affected from the affected area, should be communicated in the weekly telegram.

7. In addition to the statistical information required by the preceding rules, the weekly scarcity or famine telegram should contain general information as to changes in the condition of the people and the state of affairs in the affected areas, *e.g.*:—

(*a*) Whether distress is acute or slight, increasing or decreasing, the classes mostly affected, and the cause of any marked rise or fall in the number of persons reported to be on relief.

(*b*) Whether there is much wandering, any general appearance of emaciation among applicants for relief, any large influx of foreigners, &c.

(*c*) The physical condition of the people on relief, particularly of the women and children, and of the labouring and cultivating classes generally.

(*d*) The sufficiency of relief measures, and any special measures, such as relief to weavers and artisans in their own trade, the grant of advances, suspensions of land revenue, importation of fodder for cattle, measures to improve the water-supply, &c.

(*e*) The state of the public health, and the prevalence of epidemics.

(*f*) The need for private charitable relief for clothing, medical comforts, or other objects, and the extent to which it is being met.

(*g*) When private or aided works are affording important relief, the number of persons relieved on such works, so far as known.

NOTE.—An exmaple of a weekly telegraphic scarcity or famine report will be found in Annexure B.

8. A monthly return giving details of relief figures by districts and States for the last day or last week of each month should be despatched to the Government of India in Form 7 not later than the 10th of the following month.

Special Reports

9. Matters necessitating an increase of the Provincial staff by drafts from Imperial Departments or otherwise should be separately represented as occassion may require in special reports which should be submitted in sufficient time to enable the Government of India to make such arrangements as may be considered necessary.

10. Immediate information by telegram should be furnished to the Government of India of any disturbance in the nature of a grain riot. The telegram should indicate, as far as possible, how far the disturbance was serious, what measures were adopted to put it down (whether, for instance, the aid of the Military was required) and how far loss of life and property resulted from it. In serious cases, fuller details may be reported by post; where the case is of trifling importance, the telegram should conclude with the words "no further report seems necessary."

11. When there is reason to believe that subjects of Indian States are immigrating into British territory to any unusual or considerable extent owing to distress, the Government of India should be informed of the facts and of the name of the State or States concerned. Similar action should be taken when British subjects are found to be migrating to Indian States.

Final Report

12. On the conclusion of scarcity or famine, a review of the relief operations should be prepared for publication and submission to the Government of India. Subject to any alteration or amplification which the Local Government may think advisable, the report should contain information under the several heads mentioned in Annexure A.

13. The table accompanying the report should include statistics of the numbers of persons on relief in each district, in each month or each fortnight from the commencement to the end of the famine, classified according as they were relieved on works, as dependents of workers, in poor-houses or kitchens, or at their homes. The ratios of persons so relieved to the total population of each district, or affected portion of each district, should also be given; and also the respective numbers of men, women and children receiving relief. The imports and exports of food-grains, the course of prices, the rainfall and the mortality of the people should also be statistically exhibited.

ANNEXURE A

Headings for Final Scarcity or Famine Reports

I.—The economic and agricultural condition of the affected tract before scarcity or famine.

II.—The cause of the scarcity or famine, and the extent of the failure of the harvests.

III.—The area, population and classes affected, and the degree of distress.

IV.—General narrative of the commencement, progress, and close of the scarcity or famine.

V.—Relief measures and administration: organization of the relief system; Public Works relief; non-departmental relief; charitable relief.

VI.—Statistics and cost of relief, and nature and utility of works constructed with scarcity or famine labour.

VII.—Indirect relief: the suspensions and remissions of land revenue and other dues; loans and advances.

VIII.—Food stocks, trade and prices, and the effect of high prices on crime.

IX.—Public health, and the mortality of the scarcity or famine period.

X.—Immigration and emigration.

XI.—Water and fodder supply, and the preservation of the cattle.

XII.—Influence of railways and irrigation works in the mitigation of distress.

XIII.—General remarks on the working of the Famine Code; the measure of success attained; the attitude of the people; the future outlook.

ANNEXURE B

Example of a Weekly Famine and Scarcity Telegram

No rain fell during the week and it is greatly needed. Scarcity will be declared in some of the talukas of the Sholapur district from the twentieth instant and gratuitous relief will start from the twenty-sixth. Scarcity will also be declared in the Bijapur district and in one taluka of the Ahmednagar district from the eighteenth instant. Famine was declared in Broach on the 12th instant. Four departmental works are open in Kaira, the fifth will be opened on the nineteenth instant, the sixth on the twenty-seventh instant and the seventh on the second February. Five relief works are in progress in the Broach district. Two test works are open in Ahmedabad, three in Nasik and two in Poona. Gratuitous relief starts in Kaira from the eighteenth instant. Two poor-houses are open in Broach, one in Poona and one at Kaira will be open on first February. Several unaided private works are in progress in the Kaira, Nasik, Poona and Broach districts. Aided works are being encouraged. Numbers of persons on relief works on the last day of week were :—Works, Kaira 7,471, Broach 6,602, total 14,073. Dependents, Kaira 3,848, Broach 3,325, total 7,173. Gratuitous, Kaira 6,325, Broach 7,694, total 14,019. Poor-houses, Broach 10. Grand Total 35,275. Number of persons on test works on the last day of the week were :—Ahmedabad 177, Nasik 733, Poona 109, total 1,019. On gratuitous relief, Kaira 8,922, Poona 2,887, total 11,809. In poor-house, Poona 2. Grand total 12,830. No increase in mortality is reported. Medical arrangements are sufficient. Crime is normal. The numbers on the works are increasing especially women and children. Little wandering or emaciation is noticed. In Kaira large numbers of cattle are being sold at cheap rates. Others are either leaving district or dying. Takavi is being distributed. Private charitable relief is being organized and distributed. Fodder and water are scarce.